

**CURRENT TRENDS IN IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.**

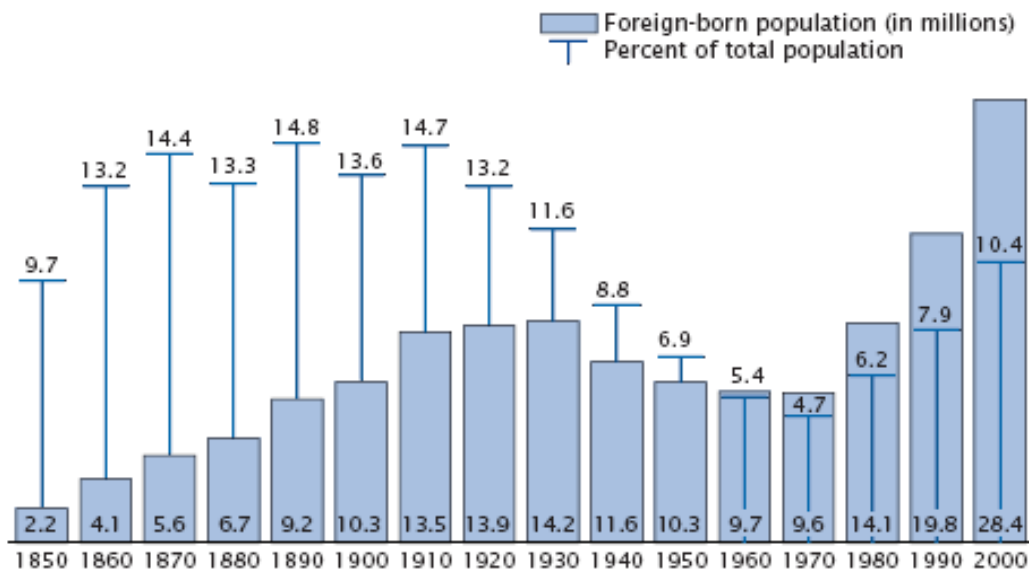
**SIZE OF THE FOREIGN -BORN POPULATION**

- The total number of immigrants (all-foreign born persons) in the US has grown dramatically since the 1960's growing from about 10 million to over 35 million today. [Census]
- As a percentage of the total US population, the foreign-born population has also grown significantly over the last 40 years from a historic low of 5% in the early 1970s to about 12% today. This is still slightly below the historic highs of the late 1800's to early 1900s of slightly more than 14%. [Census]
- Of the 35 million foreign born persons in the US, about 60% (22 million) arrived as legal permanent residents (half of whom are now naturalized citizens), about 10% (3.5 million) arrived as legal temporary residents (3%) or refugees (7%), and about 30% (10 million) arrived as undocumented or non-legal or illegal immigrants. Roughly 2/3 of the undocumented foreign born population are estimated to have arrived since 1995 (roughly 700,000 per year). [Jeffrey Passel, 2004]
- Between 1996 and 2003, 58% of total employment growth (of 11 million jobs) and 51% of the growth in the working age population was accounted for by foreign born workers. Most of the growth was among those who had arrived in the US between 1995 and 2003. [Economic Report of the President, 2005]

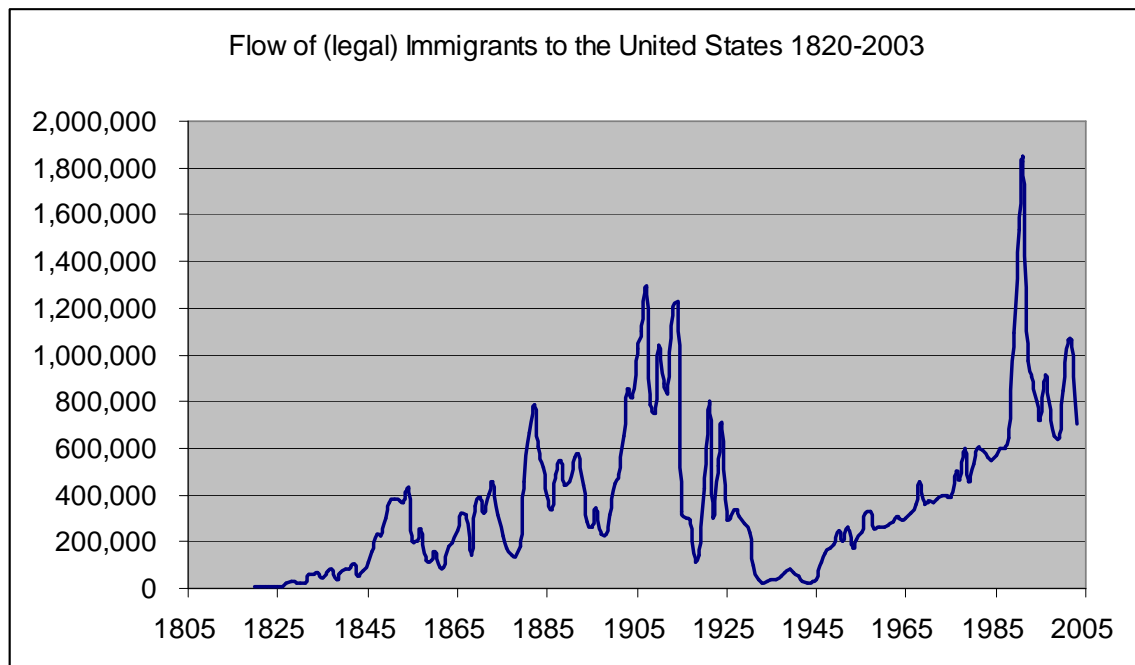
Figure 1-1.

**Foreign-Born Population and Percent of Total Population for the United States: 1850 to 2000**

(For 1850-1990, resident population. For 2000, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1999a, Table 1, and 2001, Table 1-1.



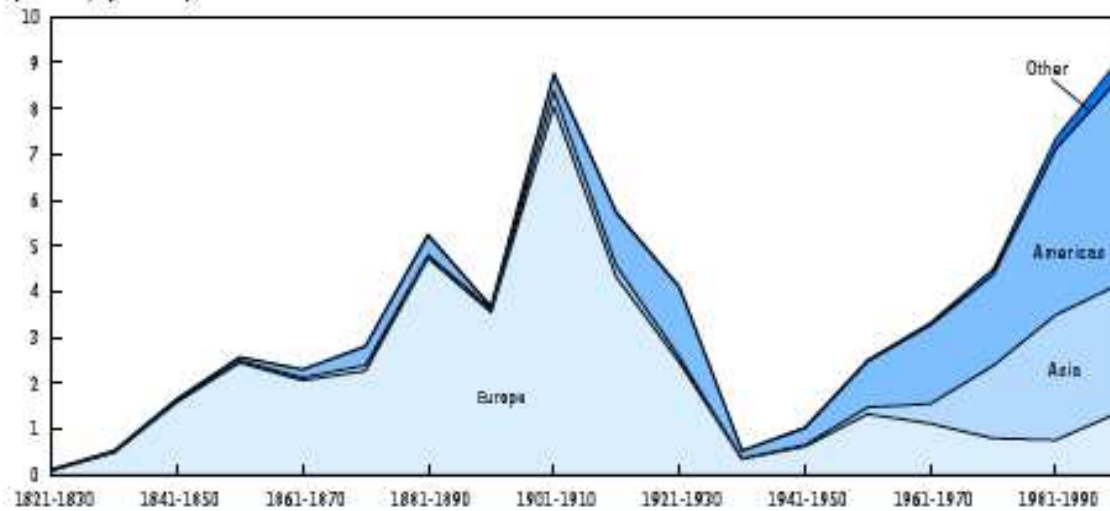
## RECENT SOURCES OF IMMIGRANTS

While Europeans dominated immigration to the US for most of its history, the growth in migration during the last 35 years has been from Mexico, Latin America and Asia. Among the 10 million undocumented immigrants, 60% are from Mexico, 25% from the rest of Latin America and 10% are from Asia.

**Figure 3.**

## Immigration to the United States, by Region of Origin, 1821 to 2000

(Millions, by decade)

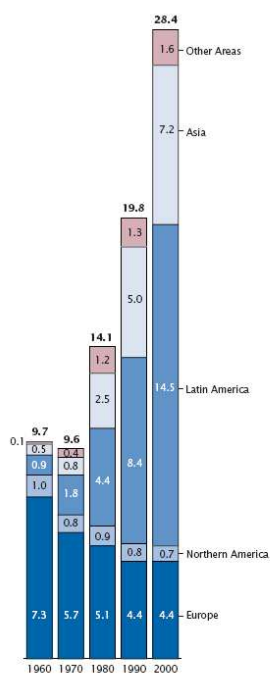


Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, *2003 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (September 2004).

Notes: Arrivals by land were not completely enumerated until 1908.

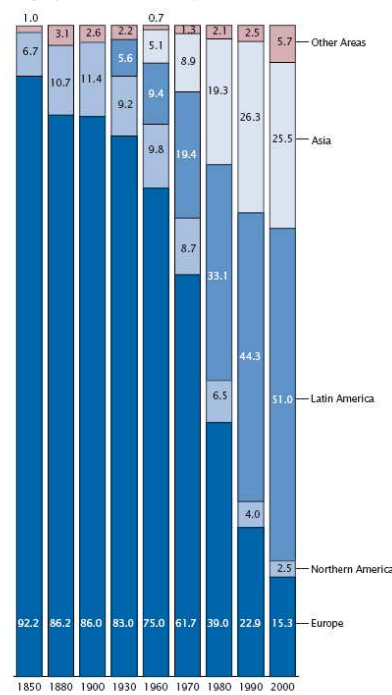
The Americas comprise Latin America and Canada.

Figure 2-1.  
Foreign-Born Population by  
Region of Birth: 1960 to 2000  
(Numbers in millions. For 1960-90, resident  
population. For 2000, civilian noninstitutional  
population plus Armed Forces living off post  
or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001, Table 2  
and Table 1-1.

Figure 2-2.  
Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth:  
Selected Years, 1850 to 2000  
(Percent distribution. For 1960-90, resident population. For 2000,  
civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces  
living off post or with their families on post)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001, Table 2 and Table 1-1.

## IMMIGRATION POPULATION PROJECTIONS

SSA ASSUMPTIONS OF NET MIGRATION 2010-2080 (2005 Trustees Report)  
(Population in thousands)

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>2010</b>	722	1,000	1,400
<b>2020</b>	672	950	1,350
<b>2030</b>	672	900	1,300
<b>2050</b>	672	900	1,300
<b>2080</b>	672	900	1,300

\* SSA assumes long-term legal immigration levels of low: 472, middle: 600, high:850

CENSUS PROJECTIONS OF NET MIGRATION (Jan. 2000)  
(Population in thousands)

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>2010</b>	149	713	1,571
<b>2020</b>	120	751	1,854
<b>2030</b>	233	1,061	2,680
<b>2050</b>	166	984	2,814
<b>2100</b>	113	926	3,047

Population predictions SSA vs. Technical Panel Recommendations  
Based on differences in immigration assumptions:  
(Population in thousands)

		<b>2003</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>2080</b>
<b>High Cost</b>	Trustees Rpt	298	341	372	394

(low est.)	Tech. Panel	298	353	405	452
	census		319	353	401
<b>Inter. Cost</b>	Trustees Rpt	298	348	389	421
(middle est.)	Tech. Panel	298	354	413	471
	Census		338	404	498
<b>Low Cost</b>	Trustees Rpt	298	357	414	465
(high est.)	Tech. Panel	298	356	423	499
	Census		368	498	697

*Census estimates for 2023 are for 2025*

Census Bureau Population predictions, based on immigration assumptions  
(population in millions)

	2010	2025	2050	2080	2100
<b>Zero net migration</b>	288	308	328	354	377
<b>Low net migration</b>	293	319	353	401	438
<b>Middle net migration</b>	300	338	404	498	571
<b>High net migration</b>	309	368	498	697	854

## HOW MUCH IMMIGRATION WOULD IT TAKE

(A Thought Experiment Not A Policy Proposal)?

- In order to maintain a “Potential Support Ratio” [the UN’s version of dependency ratio]—the ratio of age 15-64 to age 65 or older--equal to that of 1995 (5.2 15-64 year olds per 1 person 65 or older), with no changes to fertility or mortality rates the US would need to have 593 million immigrants from 1995 to 2050 or 10.8 million per year. By 2050 US population would be 1.1. billion with 73% post 1995 immigrants or their descendents.
- Alternatively, with no immigration, the US would have to raise the upper limit of it’s working age population to about 74 years in 2050 to maintain a “Potential Support Ratio” equal to 1995.
- The medium variant of the UN 1998 population projections for the US assume annual net migration of 760,000 per year between 1995-2050, for a total of 41.8 million net migrants. Total population would increase from 267 million in 1995 to 349 million by 2050, with about 17% post 1995 immigrants or their descendents. The Potential support ratio would decrease from 5.2 to 2.8

## SSA ESTIMATES OF ALTERNATIVE IMMIGRATION SCENARIOS ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS

OASDI Actuarial Balances as a percent of taxable Payroll  
(assumes legal immigration of 800,000 per year)

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	50 year balance (2004-2053)		75 year balance (2004-2078)	
Changes in Annual Legal immigration	Actuarial balance as percent of payroll	Change in Actuarial balance	Actuarial balance as percent of payroll	Change in Actuarial balance
-800,000	-1.34	-0.32	-2.20	-0.31
-330,000	-1.15	-0.13	-2.01	-0.12
0	-1.03	0	-1.89	0
+160,000	-0.96	+0.06	-1.83	+0.06
+264,000	-0.93	+0.10	-1.79	+0.10

## CATEGORIES OF IMMIGRATION

- About 70% of legal immigrants in 2003 and 66% in 2004 were admitted based on family sponsorship preferences or were immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.
- 12% in 2003 and 16% in 2004 were admitted under employment based preferences (2003 appears to be the abnormally low year in the last 5)

### IMMIGRANTS ADMITTED BY TYPE AND CLASS OF ADMISSION FISCAL YEARS 2003 and 2004

Source: Department of Homeland Security: Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

Type and class of admission	2,003		2004	
	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Total, all (legal) immigrants</b>	<b>705,827</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>946,142</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Total, subject to annual numerical limitation</i>	299,434	42%	432,373	46%
<i>Total, not subject to annual numerical limits</i>	406,393	58%	513,769	54%
<b><i>Total, subject to annual numerical limitation</i></b>	<b>299,434</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>432,373</b>	<b>100%</b>
Family-sponsored preferences	158,894	53%	214,355	50%
Employment-based preferences	82,137	27%	155,330	36%
Diversity	46,347	15%	50,084	12%
IRCA legalization dependents	21	0%	22	0%
Asylees	10,026	3%	10,016	2%
Cancellation of removal	2,009	1%	2,566	1%

***Total, not subject to annual numerical limits***

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens  
 Children born to alien residents abroad  
 Refugees  
 Other asylees  
 Other cancellation of removal  
 NACARA Section 202  
 HRIFA  
 Parolees, Soviet and Indochinese  
 Other

<b>406,393</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>513,769</b>	<b>100%</b>
332,657	82%	406,074	79%
746	0%	707	0%
34,496	8%	61,013	12%
405	0%	201	0%
27,100	7%	30,136	6%
2,577	1%	2,292	0%
1,414	0%	2,451	0%
4,199	1%	7,117	1%
2,799	1%	3,778	1%

**Total, all (legal) immigrants**

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens  
 Family-sponsored preferences  
 Employment-based preferences  
 Refugees  
 Asylees  
 Diversity  
 Other

<b>2,003</b>		<b>2004</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>705,827</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>946,142</b>	<b>100%</b>
332,657	47%	406,074	43%
158,894	23%	214,355	23%
82,137	12%	155,330	16%
34,496	5%	61,013	6%
10,026	1%	10,016	1%
46,347	7%	50,084	5%
41,270	6%	49,270	5%